

County of Los Angeles Fire Department

NEWS RELEASE



CONTACT: FIRE CAPTAIN TOM RICHARDS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE (323) 881-2411
Date: December 02, 2014

FIRE CHIEF DARYL L. OSBY
1320 N. Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063

WITH RAIN COMES MUD: HOW TO STAY STORM SAFE IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Don't get caught in a mud and debris flow! Los Angeles County firefighters remind their local residents to be aware of the potential mud and debris flow dangers associated with rainy days. This is especially true for residents living in post-burn areas of any recent wildfires.

Checklist if you live in a burn area:

- ✓ Monitor radio and TV news closely for information about weather conditions and flooding in your area.
- ✓ Identify important items to take if your neighborhood is evacuated, such as computers, photos, important documents, medications, and other needed items for your family and pets.
- ✓ Be prepared to leave immediately if an evacuation is ordered. Have alternate evacuation routes out of your neighborhood.
- ✓ Have an emergency plan that is easy for all family members to understand.
- ✓ Have enough food and water to supply your family for at least a 72-hour period.
- ✓ Always remember to include a radio and flashlight with fresh batteries in your kit.
- ✓ Acquire any needed sandbags and instructional materials at your local Los Angeles County fire station.

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Our Vision The Los Angeles County Fire Department will be an exemplary organization acclaimed for our national reputation, our regional strength, and our hometown attentiveness as we provide fire protection and life safety services.

Core Values

INTEGRITY ♦ TEAMWORK ♦ CARING ♦ COURAGE ♦ COMMITMENT ♦ COMMUNITY

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Be storm smart! Follow these general storm safety guidelines:

1. Never underestimate the power of storm and debris flows.
2. Stay away from flood control channels, catch basins, canyons, and natural waterways, which are vulnerable to flooding during periods of heavy rain.
3. Do not attempt to cross flooded areas and never enter moving water on foot or in a vehicle.
4. If flooding traps you in your car, stay in your vehicle if possible. If necessary, wait on top of your car for assistance.
5. If you become isolated, seek the highest ground available and wait for help.
6. If you see someone who has been swept into moving water, do not enter the water and attempt a rescue. Immediately call 9-1-1 and, if possible, throw a rope or some type of floatation device to them.

The more prepared you are, the better chance you have to survive a major storm-related emergency. For more information on flood safety and disaster preparedness, visit <http://www.fire.lacounty.gov/safety-messages/winter-safety-tips/>

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